(b) whether Government have framed guidelines so as to ensure that Government agencies pay a fair compension to victims; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) On the recommendation of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests, Government has decided to delete Clause 4 which grants exemption to the Government agencies from the purview of the National Environment Tribunal Bill, 1992.

(b) Since government agencies are to be treated on par with private companies with respect to the provisions of the National Environment Tribunal Bill, 1992, there is no necessity for a separate set of guidelines in this regard.

Trade of "Shahtoosh" Wool

3547. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a Committee to inquire into the procurement and trade of the precious Shahtoosh Wool as it has become a matter of controversy with Chinese authorities, demanding complete ban on sale and trade of items made of "Shahtoosh";

(b) if so, the precise circumstances leading thereto and the controversy with China; and

(c) the terms of reference of the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) A team, consisting of officials from the Forest Department of Jammu & Kashmir, Scientist from the Wildlife Institute of India and representatives of the Kashmir Handicrafts Traders Welfare Association has been asked to visit the Ladakh area in Jammu and Kashmir to look into the various issues of the Shahtoosh trade.

Shahtoosh is the underwool obtained from the Tibetan antelope. There are two views on the method of procurement of this wool. According to one view the procurement of Shahtoosh involves killing of the Tibetan antelope. The other view is that it does not involve killing of the animal as the wool is shed by the animal and is collected from the area. The Chinese authorities have voiced their concern at killing of the antelope for Shahtoosh in their country at international meetings and have sought support of India and Nepal. This species is listed in Appendix I of CITES and thus there is a ban on its international trade. The CITES Secretariat have also brought this issue to the notice of the Govt. of India for taking necessary action under the convention and national laws.

(c) The joint team will attempt to address the issues relating to—

(i) alleged killings of the animal

(ii) exact species from which the wool is being obtained

(iii) ascertaining the method of collection of the wool.

(iv) identification of the illegal trade route if any.

Provision for checking Pollution

3548. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the provisions to check pollution of various types like pollution of air, water, sound etc. in our country; and

(b) what is the impact on environment of the coal of 45 per cent above ash being used in our power houses?